

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 15253 281246Z

71

ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IGA-02 FDRE-00 EB-11 COME-00

AGR-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /172 W  
----- 089939

R 281057Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7001  
AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : EGEN, EAID, CB

SUBJECT : RICE FOR CAMBODIA

REF : A) PHNOM PENH 10234

B) PHNOM PENH 10317

C) BANGKOK 14878

1. ACTING DCM ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY OFFICER MORNING  
SEPTEMBER 28 CALLED ON PHAIROT OF THAI MARITIME TO  
IMPRESS UPON HIM IN STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS SERIOUSNESS  
OF CAMBODIAN RICE SUPPLY SITUATION, AND TO STRESS NECESSITY  
FOR THAI RICE TO ARRIVE NOT LATER THAN MID-OCTOBER.  
WHILE CONVERSATION UNDERWAY PHAIROT RECEIVED TELEPHONE  
CALL FROM LY KIM HENG, WHO ENROUTE BACK TO PHNOM PENH  
FROM PARIS, TO INQUIRE ABOUT SHIPPING AVAILABLE FOR RICE.

2. PHAIROT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THREATENING SITUATION IN  
PHNOM PENH AND ASSURED ADCM THAT HE WOULD DO ALL POSSIBLE TO  
ARRANGE FOR SHIPPING ASAP. IN EXPLANATION HOWEVER OF  
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 15253 281246Z

DIFFICULTIES BEING ENCOUNTERED, PHAIROT SAID THAT RICE

HAD BECOME LIKE GOLD AND THAT SHIP CAPTAINS WERE DIVERTING RICE LADEN SHIPS TO HIGHEST PAYING MARKET AND THEN DISAPPEARING. MOREOVER, NOT ALL CAPTAINS WILLING TO SAIL TO PHNOM PENH. PHAIROT AS CONSEQUENCE WAS CAREFULLY SCREENING AVAILABLE SHIPS TO FIND THOSE WITH CAMBODIAN CHINESE OWNERSHIP AND THEREFORE A PERSONAL INTEREST IN PROVIDING RICE FOR PHNOM PENH.

3. PHAIROT WAS IN TOUCH WITH HONG KONG AND HOPED BE ABLE REPORT RESULTS LATER IN AFTERNOON. IS ALSO DEALING WITH CAMBODIAN CHINESE NAMED CHOW CHHOA OF KECH HENG HONG CHIPPING, PHNOM PENH.

4. PHAIROT REPORTED AT 1500 HOURS THAT HE BELIEVED HE COULD OBTAIN SHIPS ACCORDING TO FOLLOWING SCHEDULE, SUBJECT TO FINAL VERIFICATION ON OCTOBER 1 OR 2:

| NO. OF SHIPS | APPROX. TONNAGE | LOADING IN     |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
|              |                 | BANGKOK        |
| 1 SHIP       | 3000 MT         | 2 OR 3 OCT.    |
| 1 SHIP       | 1500-2000 MT    | 6 OR 7 OCT.    |
| 3 SHIPS      | 8000 MT         | BEFORE 15 OCT. |

5. EMBASSY WILL CONTACT PHAIROT AGAIN OCTOBER 1. IN MEANTIME, KRANKER HAS BEEN CONTACTED RE CHARTERING OF ADDITIONAL SHIPPING. HE HAS RECOMMENDED THAT CLIFFORD FRINK OF EMBASSY SAIGON BE CHARGED WITH THIS RESPONSIBILITY AND GIVEN NECESSARY AUTHORITY IF PHNOM PENH DECIDES IT MUST CHARTER SHIPS DIRECTLY. IN MEANTIME, ADCM HAS ALSO BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF BOTH DEPUTY MINISTER OSOT KOSIN AND COL. NARONG URGENCY OF MOVING RICE TO PHNOM PENH ASAP AND DESIRE OF GKR TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS FOR SECOND TRANCHE OF 12,500 TONS ON OCTOBER 1. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE SUPPORT. KHMER EMBASSY IS BEING KEPT INFORMED. MASTERS

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